

YOUR SUMMER READS

Our guide to the season's
hottest books

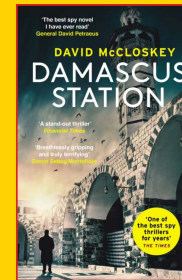
Backstory

Our team's summer picks

The classic holiday mistake: you spend weeks scrolling Instagram and Lonely Planet guides to pick your dream destination, agonise over what to pack... and then pick up some dodgy paperbacks in a last-minute panic at the airport. Your well-deserved relaxation time deserves better! Fortunately, the Backstory team is on hand to help you pick the perfect holiday companion, from steamy romances and thrilling, well, thrillers to the hottest lit fic. All you need to do is order that Cosmopolitan.

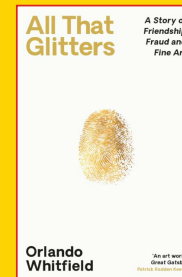


TOM



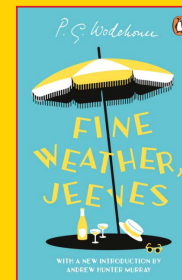
Damascus Station
David McCloskey

I devoured this spy thriller on holiday. Now I know why it's being talked about as a modern-day le Carré.



All That Glitters
Orlando Whitfield

I can't wait to tear through this memoir of fraud in the art world endorsed by my favourite non-fiction writers.



Fine Weather, Jeeves
P.G. Wodehouse

Jeeves and Wooster are the only holiday companions guaranteed to make me cry with laughter.

DENISE



The Anniversary
Stephanie Bishop

A literary thriller set on a cruise ship with a novelist and a revered film director celebrating their anniversary.



Openings
Lucy Caldwell

I love a short story collection on holiday and I can't wait to read this one.



The Rachel Incident
Caroline O'Donoghue

A coming of age love story with a bookshop as a backdrop, what's not to love?

DARBY



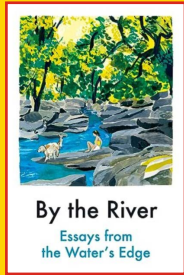
SAVANNAH



MEGAN



AMY



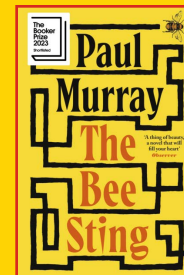
I always feel drawn to water, and I love the structural innovation of bringing together a group of writers to speak about something we can all relate to in our own ways.

By the River
Essay Collection



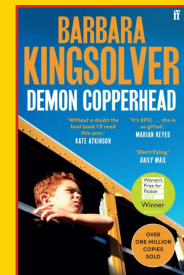
Reading about the lives of intricately linked characters over a two day London heatwave feels relatable and I like that.

Evenings and Weekends
Oisín McKenna



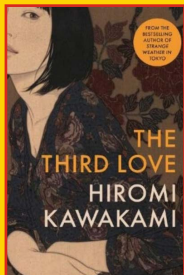
I'll be honest, I skipped this one because of its length, but if summer is good for anything, it's for long days in the sun with a stack of books that you'd never get to otherwise.

The Bee Sting
Paul Murray



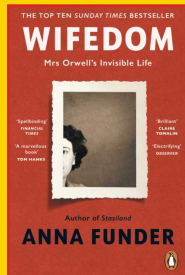
I've heard nothing but amazing things about this Appalachian retelling of 'David Copperfield', including from non-Dickens readers which is a camp I fall firmly in.

Demon Copperhead
Barbara Kingsolver



This novel gives me 'The Midnight Library' vibes. A woman in an unhappy marriage discovers how to live other lives through her dreams.

The Third Love
Hiromi Kawakami



I have been recommended this book too many times not to read it this summer (and also need to fill my non-fiction quota for the year).

Wifedom
Anna Funder



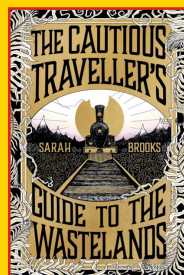
I read this when it came out and loved it, but it's so richly drawn, I feel like it requires a reread this summer, possibly while on my very long flight back to Australia.

Monsters
Claire Dederer



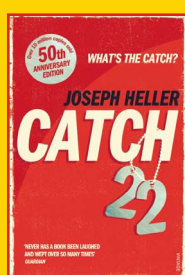
I decided this year to read all the Discworld books in order before I die. As long as no disasters occur, 1-2 a year should be a safe rate for me. This is the second!

The Light Fantastic
Terry Pratchett



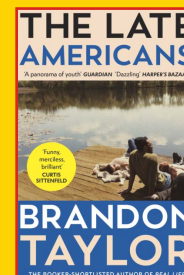
I always have to read at least one fantasy during the summer. This one's a historical fantasy about a magical railway that travels between Beijing and Moscow.

The Cautious Traveller's Guide to the Wastelands
Sarah Brooks



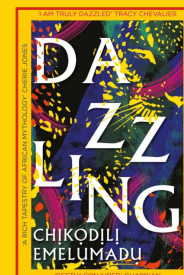
I have a fond memory of cackling at this book whilst lying by the pool and I wish to replicate that this summer.

Catch 22
Joseph Heller



Brandon Taylor is so sensational at writing characters that live with you long after you read the final page. This one is a campus novel too, which is perfect for summer, I reckon.

The Late Americans
Brandon Taylor

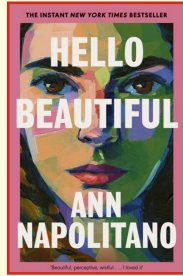


I'm a huge mythology fan and have been wanting to learn more about West African mythology. This looks like it will have all the magic and vividness that I am after!

Dazzling
Chikodili Emelumadu

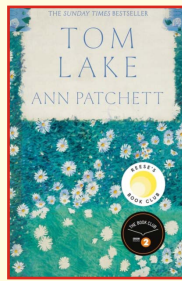
SUMMER FICTION

Holiday Romance



Hello Beautiful
Ann Napolitano

Meet the four Padavano sisters and William, a lost soul, in this love story about family. **Paperback 25th July.**



Tom Lake
Ann Patchett

A gorgeous meditation on love and the lives parents live before their children are born.



Welcome to the Hyunam-dong Bookshop
Hwang Bo-Reum

A love letter to books, bookshops and all who enjoy them. **Paperback 4th July.**



Yellowface
Rebecca F. Kuang

A twisty tale of friendship and deception at the heart of publishing.



The Last Sane Woman
Hannah Regel

An elegant debut about building a life, and the universal search for meaning. **Paperback 2nd July.**



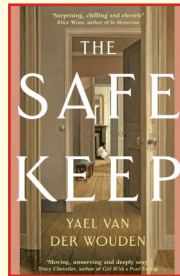
The Amendments
Niamh Mulvey

An extraordinary novel about love and freedom, belonging and rebellion.



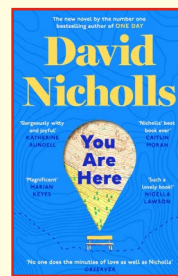
Romantic Comedy
Curtis Sittenfeld

TV scriptwriter meets pop star in this addictive novel.



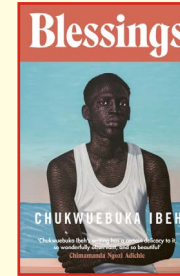
The Safekeep
Yael van der Wouden

An atmospheric, mysterious love story centred around a house full of family ties and secrets.



You Are Here
David Nicholls

A 'hopefully' romantic novel exploring loneliness, separation and hiking.



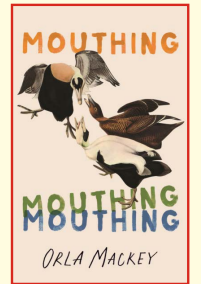
Blessings
Chukwuebuka Ibeh

An impressive debut novel about coming of age in early 2000s Nigeria.



The Material
Camille Bordas

Set over the course of a day at the Chicago School of Stand Up where success is about the material. **Published 4th July.**

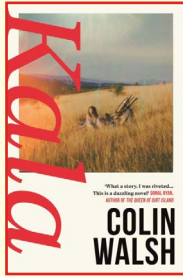


Mouthing
Orla Mackey

A multigenerational portrait of small town life in Ireland.

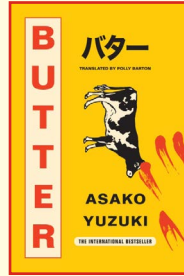
Midsummer murders

Family holiday



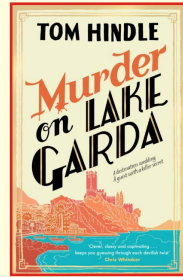
Kala
Colin Walsh

This debut thriller is a coming of age story exploring belonging, violence and despair in an Irish coastal town. **Paperback 4th July.**



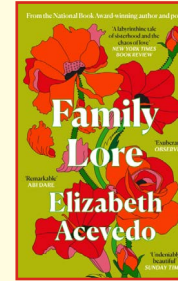
Butter
Asako Yuzuki

This cult Japanese bestseller is about a gourmet cook who is also a serial killer and the journalist intent on cracking her case.



Murder on Lake Garda
Tom Hindle

An Agatha Christie-esque mystery with a wedding party to die for, literally, on Lake Garda. **Paperback 4th July.**



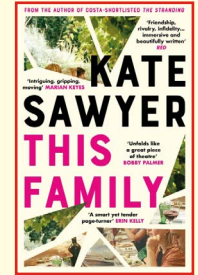
Family Lore
Elizabeth Acevedo

A living wake brings up a web of complications for the Marte family. **Paperback 4th July.**



Blue Sisters
Coco Mellors

Three sisters reunite in New York to stop the sale of their childhood home and come to terms with the death of their fourth sister.

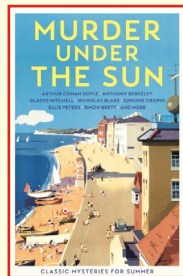


This Family
Kate Sawyer

A fractured family reunite for a wedding at their childhood home.

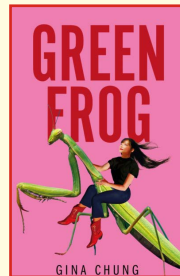
Summer shorts

Fantasy & Sci-Fi



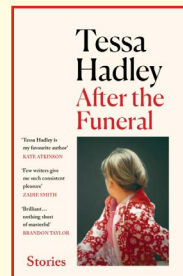
Murder Under the Sun
Various Authors

A collection of classic crime stories where the body count is climbing as high as the mercury.



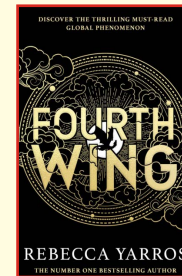
Green Frog
Gina Chung

Fifteen short stories about women trying to make their own way inspired by Korean fairytales.



After the Funeral
Tessa Hadley

A fantastic short story collection exploring the big consequences of small events. **Paperback 11th July.**



Fourth Wing
Rebecca Yarros

'Divergent' meets 'How to Train Your Dragon' in this adult Romantasy with stellar world-building.



Private Rites
Julia Armfield

A haunting novel of three sisters navigating queer love and faith at the end of the world. **Published 11th June.**



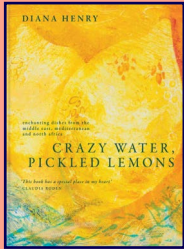
The Lost Story
Meg Shaffer

A Narnia-inspired cosy fantasy from the best selling author of 'The Wishing Game'. **Published 18th July.**

SUMMER NON-FIC

Food & Drink

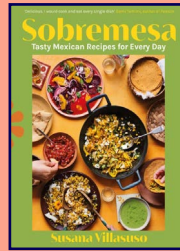
History & Society



Crazy Water, Pickled Lemons

Diana Henry

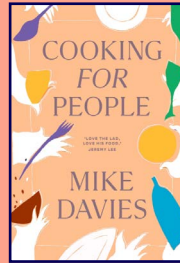
A gorgeous new edition of Diana Henry's original gem of a cookbook focusing on ingredients. **Published 1st August.**



Sobremesa

Susana Villasuso

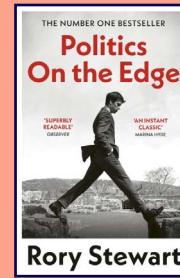
In her debut cookbook, Villasuso has put together recipes made in kitchens up and down Mexico.



Cooking for People

Mike Davies

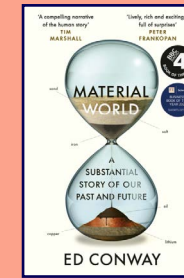
Perfect for people who love to host but find it daunting with foolproof menus. **Published 18th July.**



Politics on the Edge

Rory Stewart

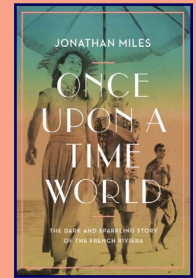
A searing insight of ten extraordinary years in Parliament.



Material World

Ed Conway

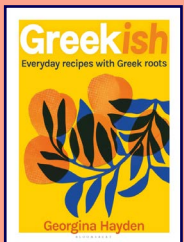
Travel the globe to learn the secrets of the six most crucial substances in the world. **Paperback 1st August.**



Once Upon a Time World

Jonathan Miles

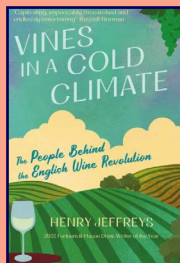
The story of the French Riviera from an escapist paradise to pollution-imperilled concrete jungle.



Greekish

Georgina Hayden

Brimming with Mediterranean classics and Greek inspired recipes, perfect for the summer.



Vines in a Cold Climate

Henry Jeffreys

A peek behind the scenes of the English wine revolution and the characters at the heart of it.



Sift

Nicola Lamb

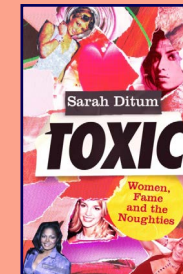
A new essential baking bible with techniques fully explained and 100 delicious recipes to try.



The Rest is History

Tom Holland & Dominic Sandbrook

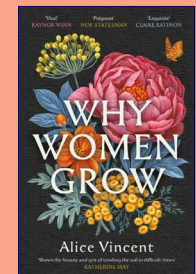
A whistle-stop tour through the past with two of the nation's favourite historians.



Toxic

Sarah Ditum

Journalist Ditum profiles nine celebrities whose fame in the early Noughties has come at a price.



Why Women Grow

Alice Vincent

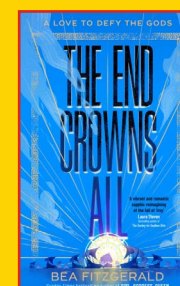
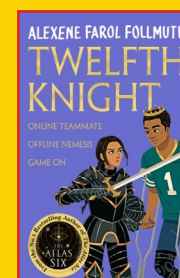
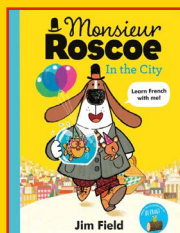
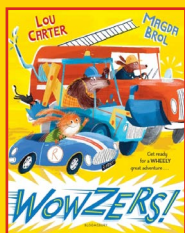
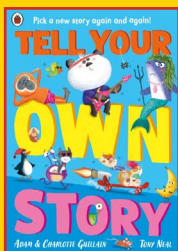
A beautifully written book trying to make sense of why women have always turned to the earth.

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KIDS

Picture Books



Tell Your Own Story
Adam & Charlotte Guillain

Wowzers!
Lou Carter

Monsieur Roscoe in the City
Jim Field

Dead Happy
Josh Silver

Twelfth Knight
Alexene Farol Follmuth

The End Crowns All
Bea Fitzgerald

With over 60 funny story options to choose from you can choose what happens on each page in this fun new picture book.

An hilarious adventure about the value of friendship and helping others.

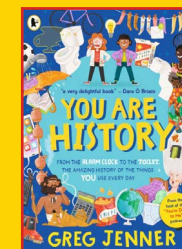
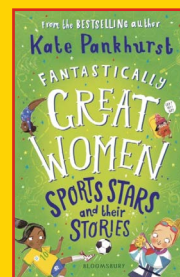
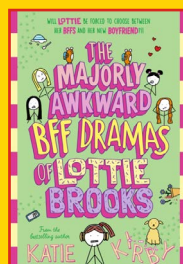
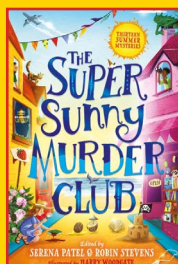
Learn French with Monsieur Roscoe as he heads on an adventure through the city.

The nail biting sequel to 'Happyhead', perfect for dystopia fans.

From the author of 'Atlas Six', a romantic, coming of age YA comedy.

A new Greek myth re-telling from the best selling author of Girl, Goddess, Queen. Published 18th July.

Fiction



Alex vs Axel
The Impossible Quests

The Super Sunny Murder Club
Various Authors

The new Lottie Brooks
Katie Kirby

Fantastically Great Women
Kate Pankhurst

Kay's Incredible Inventions
Adam Kay

You Are History
Greg Jenner

A fun tale of every day heroism in this new fantasy series from Sam Copeland.

A collection of summer themed crime and mystery stories by 13 children's authors.

The next instalment of Lottie Brooks life is finally here. Published 18th July.

Read about incredible women in the world of sports.

Learn all about the coolest, grossest and most ridiculous inventions in the world.

Discover the incredible history all around you in this hilarious and fascinating book from historian Greg Jenner.

Design our kids bookmark

We are looking for budding illustrators under the age of 16 to design our bookmark for kids. If your design wins you will receive a three month kids book subscription AND you will see your design in print.

If you would like to enter either pop into the shop and pick up a design form or send us an email at books@backstory.london and we will send it over for you to print at home.

BACKSTORY SUMMER SESSIONS

Live music is back. Come along for a unique evening of live music, drinks and nibbles in our beautiful bookshop. Doors open at 6pm and the music starts at 7pm.

.....LIONHAIRE.....

6TH JUNE

.....JAMES OR.....

20TH JUNE

.....MATILDA GRACIA.....

4TH JULY

.....HARRIET PERRING.....

18TH JULY

BOOK TICKETS AT BACKSTORY.LONDON FOR ONLY £5

Backstory

Visit the shop

We're open every day, 10am-6pm. On Thursdays and Fridays we're open late, until 9pm.

Why not join us at our bookshop bar? We serve wine, beer, tea, coffee and soft drinks. We'll also try to tempt you to delicious sweet treats baked by prisoners training for their NVQs at The Clink bakery at Brixton prison.

71 Balham High Road, London, SW12 9AP

Come to an event

We host author events at the shop most weeks as well as occasional poetry open-mic nights.

Sign up to our **free weekly newsletter** at **backstory.london** to be the first to hear about our latest events, which often sell out fast.

Shop online

Did you know we offer free UK delivery? Just visit our website at **backstory.london** and please tell your friends who don't live nearby about our service if they'd like to support an independent bookshop.

Please note: we unfortunately cannot offer a 'click and collect' service via our website. If you want to order a book to collect in the shop, drop us an email at **books@backstory.london** (all orders placed online are fulfilled immediately for delivery).

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